Attachment 11
Program Preferences

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project will provide multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits and reduction of in-stream erosion and sedimentation. All these benefits are also part of the Statewide Priorities and are included under Integrated Flood Management and Protection of Surface and Ground Water Quality.

Flood Damage Reduction
This project will widen the existing creek channel to increase the capacity of the creek. The increased capacity will improve flood protection along the creek from an estimated 8-year event to approximately a 20-year event. Mission Creek runs through the urbanized downtown area of the City of Santa Barbara, these improvements will protect significant residential and commercial properties.

Water Quality Improvements
This project will provide significant rehabilitation of the creek. Rehabilitation will improve water quality by increasing natural soils and plants for infiltration and treatment.

Ecosystem benefits
The proposed project will significantly contribute to the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. This project includes the removal of non-native invasive plants and replacement with native riparian species as well as the construction of fish ledges and boulder clusters. The existing conditions of the creek banks and bottom will be modified to facilitate wetland habitat and migration of southern steelhead, while improving habitat for the tidewater goby and other fish, amphibians, benthic invertebrates and wading birds. The Southern California steelhead and tidewater goby are listed on the endangered species list.

Reduction of In-stream Erosion & Sedimentation
The proposed project would reduce sedimentation and the erosion of creek banks. The existing creek banks would be replaced with either a combination of short wall and rip-rap sideslopes or vertical walls. Lower banks would be stabilized by short vertical walls and the upper banks would be stabilized by vegetated rip-rap. Rip-rap will consist of rock and soil matrix where native riparian type vegetation would be planted.